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The President's Daily Brief

11 April 1970

25

~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi's representatives in Paris seem cool to the French proposal for discussions on Indochina, and the French do not appear optimistic about getting a favorable response from Hanoi. *(Page 1)*

[redacted] *(Page 2)* 50X1 50X1

[redacted] Cambodia. *(Page 3)* 50X1

[redacted] Soviets [redacted] *(Page 5)* 50X1 50X1

Lao Government forces, pressed by the enemy, have abandoned an outpost north of the Plaine des Jarres. *(Page 5)*

The Soviet military airlift to Egypt apparently has ended. *(Page 5)*

[redacted] Jordan [redacted] *Page 5.* 50X1 50X1

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NORTH VIETNAM - FRANCE

Hanoi's representatives in Paris have thrown cold water on the recent French proposal for discussions on Indochina. Politburo member Le Duc Tho, talking to newsmen yesterday before he departed for home, left the strong impression that Hanoi still insists on reaching a settlement in South Vietnam--a settlement involving US withdrawal--before entering broader Indochina discussions. On 9 April the press spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation, while emphasizing that his government was still reserving its position, implied that "our people" think the French suggestion "furthers American aggression."

Both Tho and the press representative made plain that their pronouncements are not to be taken as a flat rejection of the French proposal. Tho's insistence on the priority of the "South Vietnamese problem" suggests a negotiating ploy: portions of the proposal dealing with South Vietnam are clearly favorable to the Vietnamese Communists. It seems clear, however, that the North Vietnamese are viewing it with a jaundiced eye.

The French themselves apparently are not sanguine about the possibility of a favorable response from Hanoi. Foreign Ministry Asian affairs director Froment-Meurice, who may have been present when Foreign Minister Schumann discussed the proposal with Tho, told Ambassador Habib on Thursday that he had "no great hopes" of an encouraging reply.

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CAMBODIA

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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

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50X1

50X1

50X1

(continued)

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[redacted] 50X1

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NOTES

USSR: [redacted] 50X1 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Laos: Under heavy enemy pressure, the government yesterday abandoned a key defensive outpost near Bouam Long, north of the Plaine des Jarres (see The President's Daily Brief of 10 April). The military situation otherwise is essentially unchanged.

USSR-Egypt: The Soviet military airlift appears to have ended. Only one AN-12 has arrived in Egypt since 5 April. In all there were 76 AN-12 flights. [redacted] 50X1 cargo may have included additional equipment for improving the MIG-21s, urgently needed maintenance equipment and spare parts, and possibly air defense equipment.

Jordan [redacted] 50X1 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

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